

# Tongass National Forest Roadless Areas

## Eudora Roadless Area on North Prince of Wales Island

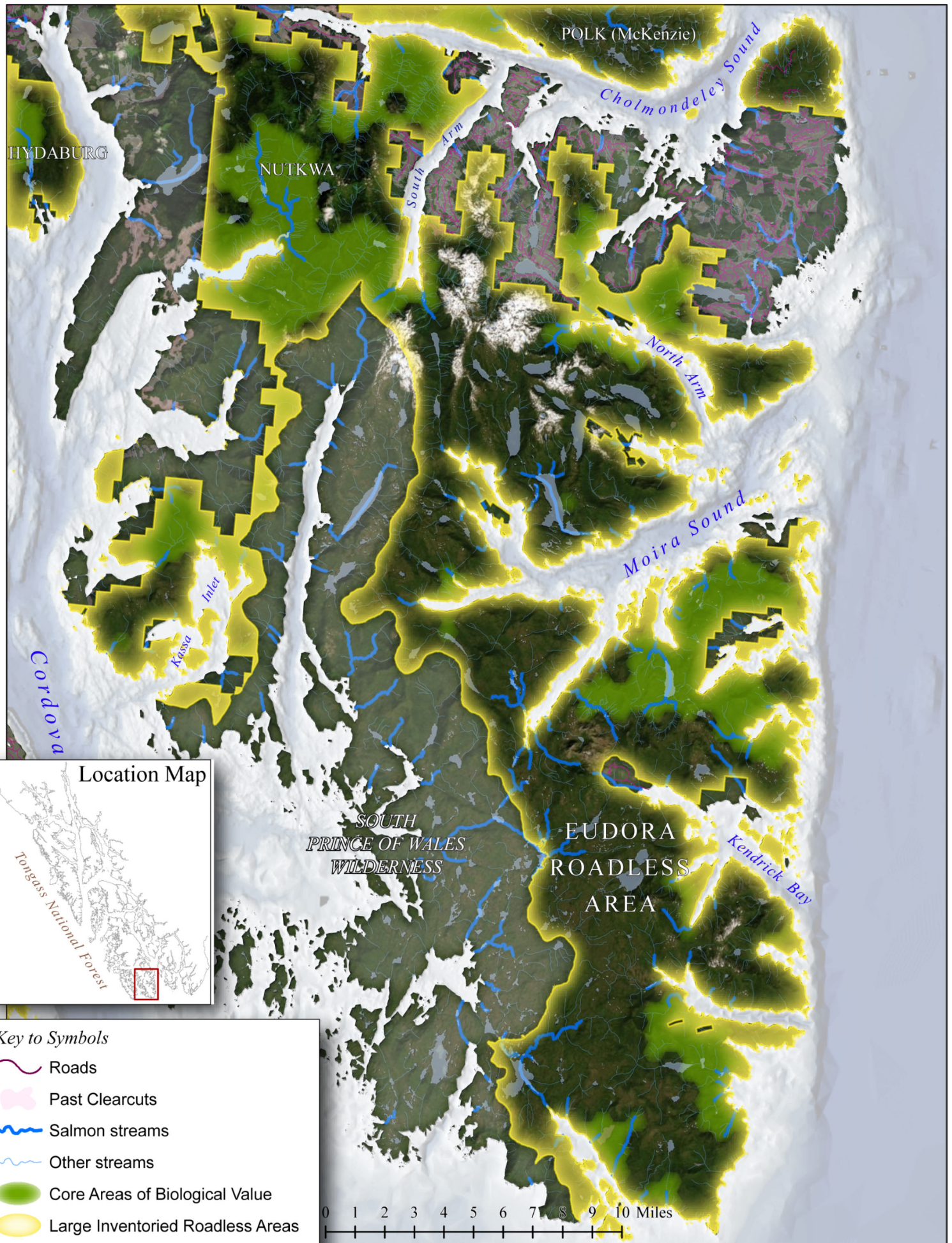


Photo: John Schoen

This roadless area is located on North Prince of Wales Island in the Tongass National Forest within Southeast Alaska. The Tongass has many Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). These protected areas have high biological value, meaning they provide important habitat to one or more species, like the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse.

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# Eudora Roadless Area



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



### Local Resident Spotlight

Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse

The **Eudora Roadless Area** on southern Prince of Wales Island is home to the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse, a subspecies of Spruce Grouse found only on Prince of Wales and a few of the outer islands in Southeast Alaska. These grouse can fly, but prefer to forage and move around on the ground.

During the Pleistocene era about 20,000 years ago, Spruce Grouse from the mainland most likely walked over to Prince of Wales on an ice bridge. Later when the glaciers retreated they were isolated, leaving the species to slowly change into the distinct subspecies that exists today.

The Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse prefers intact old-growth forests without roads, making places like the **Eudora Roadless Area** an ideal home for these handsome but shy forest birds.

Photo: Milo Burcham

## Facts on the Tongass National Forest

- There are **16.7 million** acres of Tongass National Forest lands in Southeast Alaska.
- There are **9.3 million** acres of roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest.
- **168** breeding bird species, **82** land mammal species & **5** salmon species use the forests and habitats of Southeast Alaska.
- Industries reliant on fish and wildlife populations and healthy forest ecosystems employ **over 30 times more people** in Southeast Alaska than the timber industry.
- **1.5 million** people visit Southeast Alaska annually with **~600,000** participating in wildlife viewing and bird watching.
- **109** named roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest (2001).
- Up to **12%** of the country's stored carbon found within national forests is captured in the Tongass.
- It costs about **\$160,000–\$500,000** per mile to construct new roads on the Tongass.
- There is a **\$68 million** maintenance backlog for existing Tongass logging roads.
- **5,000 miles** of logging roads already exist on the Tongass.

## The importance of the Roadless Rule

The 2001 Roadless Rule protects wild places in our National Forests across the country. Roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska have exceptional wilderness value and areas of high biological value. About half of the big old trees on the Tongass have already been felled for logging, but the Roadless Rule helps protect about half of what is left. Roadless areas are home to salmon, spruce grouse, goshawks, bears, wolves, and many other birds and wildlife. Roadless areas provide humans with opportunities for fishing, hunting, bird-watching, backpacking, and wilderness solitude.

The Roadless Rule operates on the Tongass to protect this roadless area and others from roadbuilding and logging. But efforts to chip away at these protections are underway, and the Tongass roadless areas are threatened by a rollback that specifically targets the big old trees that wildlife call home. Join us in advocating for protecting the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse's home and use this map and factsheet to write specific comments when the time comes. Stay tuned for an action alert in your inbox, or sign up for alerts at [ak.audubon.org/take-action](http://ak.audubon.org/take-action).

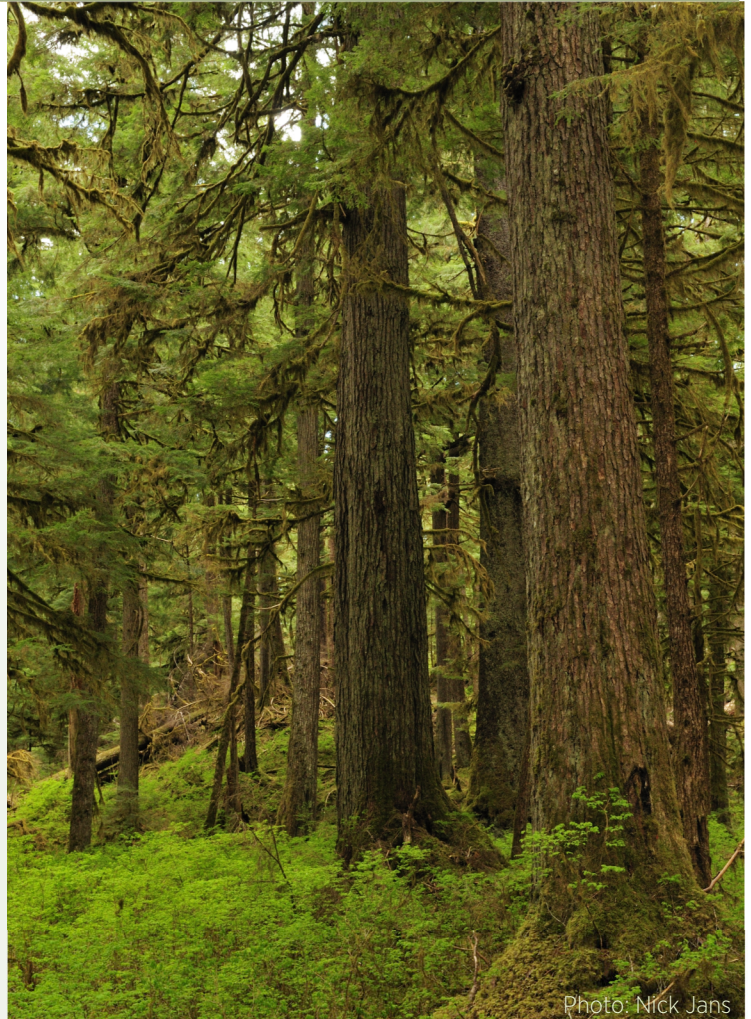
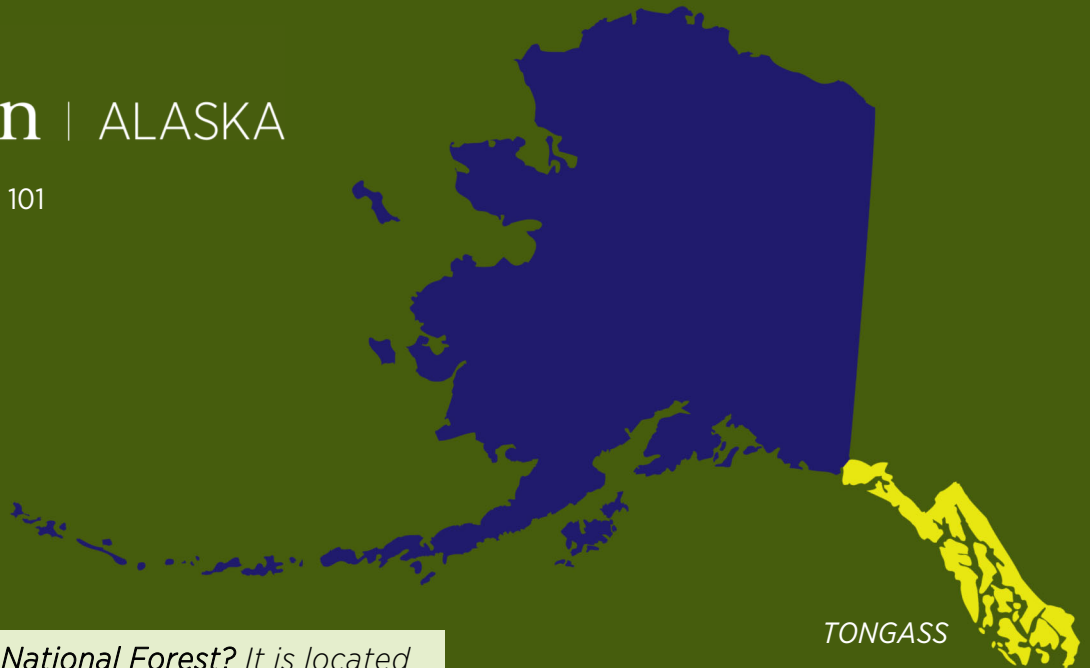


Photo: Nick Jans



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*Where is the Tongass National Forest? It is located in Southeast Alaska and is the largest National Forest in the United States. It is also the last remaining old-growth temperate rainforest in the world.*

TONGASS  
NATIONAL FOREST